

DIADIN 174-76
15 JANUARY 1976

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE

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Date: 18 Oct 2018 Authority: EO 13526 §552

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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

CABINET SHAKEUP.

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~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Mrs. Peron dismissed her Defense, Foreign, Interior, and Justice ministers on 15 January in an apparent attempt to rid the body of moderate Peronist factions and to tighten her hold on the Presidency.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The most significant change is the resignation of the moderate Peronist Angel Robledo, who held the interior portfolio, considered the Cabinet's top post. Robledo, also deputy chairman of the Peronist Movement, had developed a reputation of disloyalty with Mrs. Peron over the last several months and in recent weeks had lost effective contact with her. He had also quarreled with Peronist labor leaders, some of whom are Mrs. Peron's strongest supporters. His stature probably deteriorated because of his attempts to convince the President to either take leave or resign, an act looked on unfavorably by hardline Peronists. He gave the military assurances that he would do this probably as a condition to her resuming the Presidency last October.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Robledo has been replaced by Roberto Ares, president of the government-owned Bank of the Nation, Juan Carlos Deheza has become the Justice Minister, and the Education, Economic, Labor, and Social Welfare ministers of the previous Cabinet have been reconfirmed. New Defense and Foreign Ministers have not been named; but these posts will be filled temporarily by the Justice and Education ministers, respectively.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Since the end of the air force revolt in December, the service commanders have insisted that Mrs. Peron turn over the Presidency

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to her constitutional successor. She has reportedly rebuffed all such demands, and this Cabinet shuffle is probably a further defiance of the military. The armed forces are not likely to be pleased with the changes, and Mrs. Peron may be hastening her ouster. Leaving the government without Defense and Foreign ministers is surprising, and Argentine foreign policy at least is bound to suffer, especially in view of the current confrontation with the UK over the Falkland Islands. ~~(CDS-31 Dec 82)~~

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PREPARED BY:

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